

The Innovator

March 25, 2008

Issue 7

**A MESSAGE FROM
PRINCIPAL
DAVID DIOKNO**

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Scales Innovator! I trust that each of you had a wonderful break and are ready to finish up the school year full of energy and enthusiasm! As we enter into the last marking term for the year, there are many things to be mindful of. It is such a busy time of year, but we can't lose sight of our main purpose for school... the educational process and all children learning and achieving! This final marking term brings with it several exciting challenges which present themselves in the form of final assessments.

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August 4th, 2008

**Scales Technology Academy
will open-**

1115 W. 5th St.

Tempe, AZ 85281

480-929-9909

www.scalestechnologyacademy.org

Second Grade Teachers Share What Their Students Are Learning

By second grade teachers

JoAnn Anzalone, Kim Beck, Tina Gartland, and Jayne Olney



Second graders stand in front of their Rainforest pictures. L to R: Monet Martinez, Kayble Scott-Gist, Jesus Servin, Josh Ponzio, Eliana Rocha, and Sean Ulsh.

Our second grade students recently learned about the country of Brazil. Brazil is the largest country in South America and has many hills, mountains, plains, and over 1,000 rivers. Most people in Brazil speak Portuguese. Brazil celebrates many holidays. Some of them are the same as ours. Christmas in Brazil is known as "Feliz Natal." Brazilians celebrate New Year's Eve, too.

We learned that all of the holidays in Brazil are celebrated with big parties and music. The most popular musical style is the Samba. It is a fun dance. Mrs. Finkle, our general music teacher, shared some of her Samba CD's with the second grade so we could enjoy the wonderful sounds.

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SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1045 S. BECK AVENUE TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281 480-929-9909

Mr. Diokno, continued from page 1...

We have been educating our children all year so that they are ready to move to the next level. Our final assessments are a way to gauge what students have learned and provide information on how we can better support them. In the coming months, students will take the AIMS (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards), NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress), DIBELS (Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills), and several other end of the year tests. While this might seem overwhelming, it is not. It is something that our teachers and students see as a normal part of school. Our students and staff prepare everyday for the challenges ahead, and I am extremely confident in each child's ability to excel. Our partnership --parents, students, and staff-- is the most valuable tool in the preparation process. Open communication, positive reinforcement, and everyday practice will ensure that each student does well. It is critical that every child gets plenty of rest, eats well-balanced meals, and has a healthy balance between physical activity and studying. Parents, please continue to encourage your children throughout the educational process and always praise them for their academic focus and progress. I am honored to work with our teachers, students, and parents to assure that all students reach their achievement goals!

***Teach Children Test Taking Skills - <http://teachers.net/gazette/JAN03/gruber.html>**
Songs That Teach Study Skills & Test-Taking Strategies -<http://www.songsforteaching.com/studyttesttakingskills/index.htm>

***ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE:**

4/7 - 4/14 AIMS (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards)
4/21 - 4/28 NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress)
5/5 - 5/12 DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Basic Literacy Skills)

Language Arts Corner: Raise a Reader
By Margaret Arevalo, Title I Reading Specialist

It's important to keep up story time at home as your child learns to read and write at school. Let him pick what he wants to read, but make sure you expose him to a wide variety of genres including folk-tales, fantasy, and nonfiction.

Here are some tips to achieve this goal:

- Get your child a library card. Going to the library is a fun adventure. Kids love dropping books into the return slot and making new selections.*
- Accept his literary taste. Don't be bummed if all he'll read is Bob the Builder books. What matters most is that kids are reading, and books based on their favorite TV shows are fine.*
- Chat them up. Talk about what you've just read. Relate stories back to their own life: "Do you ever feel homesick when you visit Grandma?"*
- Publish a book. Staple a few sheets of paper together and ask your child to dictate a story and make some drawings.*
- Use reading as a reward. If your child shared nicely, treat him to an extra story or two and some special cuddle time. (Excerpts from Parents Magazine, March 2008)*

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A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MR. WHITNEY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Hello Parents and Students!

Your Efforts Help Us!

As we anxiously await the move to our new school, stop and think for a moment of the amazing year that we have had so far: Our test scores are going up, and learning is on-going because of the hard work of students, the efforts of our teachers and instructional aides, and because of your support. Soon we will fill our new school with laughter, smiles, and the rewards of success. How can you as parents help our students stay focused for the upcoming year? Here are some suggestions:

- 1. Read with your children **every** day.*
- 2. Check on their homework each evening.*
- 3. Communicate with teachers regularly.*
- 4. Students need adequate rest. Make bed-time 8:00 p.m.*
- 5. If your child is struggling, talk with us and ask for help.*

These are only a few of the things you can do to help your child succeed.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

*Next year we will have a wonderful **student drop-off lane** at the new school. You will be able to drop your student off without hindering the buses that deliver some of our students to school. I want to thank parents who are dropping off their children at the church parking lot in the morning. It has made a huge difference for the bus drivers and student safety. Please continue to do so. It won't be long before we will have our own glorious student drop-off lane!*

No Toys at School!

Help us decrease distractions! Check your child's backpack as he/she leaves for school. Look for toys, especially toy guns or other toy "weapons," and leave them at home. Items that are considered to be weapons and their toy "look-a-likes" are strictly forbidden at school. The consequences for bringing these items to school are suspension and possible expulsion. Please monitor what your children bring to school. Thanks you for your continued support!

Help Your Child Develop Good Character

By Deborah Fierros, Special Education Teacher

Teaching good character helps children live healthy, happy purposeful lives. Focusing on the Six Pillars of Character encourages children to make good choices and form basic core values for life. These clear character values can and should be taught throughout the day to all age groups by parents and teachers. These character values are best taught by the examples we set as adults. Every adult has the responsibility to model and teach these core values every minute, every day, every time! There are six pillars of character:

TRUSTWORTHINESS: Be honest and tell the truth.

RESPECT: You've got to give it, to get it.

RESPONSIBILITY: You are responsible for you.

FAIRNESS: Life has rules. Play fair.

CARING: Think with your heart. Think hard.

CITIZENSHIP: Make the world a better place.

Learn more about the Six Pillars of Character. Please link to www.charactercounts.org for more information about Character Counts!

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Second graders, continued from page 1...

Brazil is not only an interesting country, but it is a very important country as well. Second grade students have learned that the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil. Rainforests are made up of four layers that are home to many plants and animals. Did you know that some medicines are made from plants in the rainforest? We also learned that many fruits come from the rainforest. There are pineapples, mangos, oranges, and many more. We were excited to share what we learned about Brazil at the Scales Multicultural Fair on February 20th.



Paige Ullsh is in Mrs. Kob's fifth grade class.

Technology Comes With Me Everywhere

By 5th grader Paige Ullsh

Next year I will not be coming to Scales. I am moving on to Gililand Middle School. But I would like to tell you that Scales Technology Academy is the place to be to learn about technology. I have been at Scales now for 3 years. Every year I have changed. This year there has been a great change in how we learn at Scales. Next year, the whole school will be on laptops. Ever since I have been on a laptop this year, my work has improved.

When I go to middle school, what I learned about technology at Scales will stay in my heart and mind forever. What I want to take with me is of course a laptop computer. But, if I can't take a laptop, here is what I will take with me: 1) my knowledge, 2) my experiences, 3) my skills, 4) and my pride in the progress I've made. I'm also going to take with me the skills that are preparing me for my future.

Learning with technology makes me feel responsible and allows me to show how responsible I am. Technology is a tool for discovery, a tool for communication, and can help us change the world for the better. I am ecstatic to be a part of change! The world is a beautiful place to be, only if we make it that way. Technology is a part of the world and it's a part of me.

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"Families Learning Together"

is a wonderful opportunity for Scales students and their parents to learn technology together. Come to Mrs. Laneback's 4/5 grade classroom on Thursday nights from 6-8 p.m. Second – fifth grade students are invited to attend, **with a parent**. Learn how to create iMovies, podcasts, and digital iBooks. No younger children may attend. A signed permission slip is required. For information, please call Mrs. Laneback (602-478-2463).

March/ April Calendar

March-

26- District Writing Assessment grades 1,2

April-

3- Site Council Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. in the Scales Library

3- PTA meeting in the Gililand Cafeteria @ 6:30 p.m.

7-10 and the 14th- AIMS Testing

7,8- Terra Nova Testing

21-28- NWEA Map Testing

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the Innovator:

Writers- David Diokno, Matt Whitney, Halyna Chirovsky, Margaret Arevalo, Jayne Olney, JoAnn Anzalone, Kim Beck, Tina Gartland, Deborah Fierros, Mary Jo Finkle, and Paige Ulsh

Translators- Mila Jimenez, Matt Whitney

Copy Editors- Dianne Berg, Stan Berg, and Barbara Walker

We appreciate you!

Rachel Trim, Editor
Library Media Specialist

Updated Information Card (below):

*If you have not already furnished us with your most current information, please cut/tear out the updated information card. It is **CRITICAL** that we have accurate information on your child. Please return it to your child's teacher as quickly as possible.*

_____ M F _____
Child's Last Name First Name B-day Teacher Year
Home Phone _____ Street _____ Apt.# _____
Father/Stepfather/Guardian _____ Bus. Phone _____
Address if different from above _____ Cell Phone _____
Mother/Stepmother/Guardian _____ Bus. Phone _____
Address if different from above _____ Cell Phone _____

I authorize the following person(s) to be contacted and to transport my child if I cannot be reached (names, telephone numbers, and addresses):

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A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

10 REASONS TO TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE DOCTOR OR KEEP HIM/HER HOME FROM SCHOOL:

- 1) A FEVER OVER 100.F
- 2) A PERSISTENT COUGH (for more than 1 week)
- 3) VOMITING AT HOME BEFORE SCHOOL OR DURING THE NIGHT
- 4) AN EAR INFECTION OR DRAINAGE FROM THE EAR
- 5) A SERIOUS HEAD INJURY
- 6) PINK EYE (Conjunctivitis-Very contagious!- Report to the nurse)



Symptoms of Pink Eye include itchy, teary, red eyes, sometimes with discharge out of the corner of the eye or stuck to the lashes. A student with Pink Eye must be on antibiotic drops for at least 24 hours, be without eye drainage, and visit the school nurse to receive clearance to return to school.

7) CHICKEN POX (Varicella- Contagious- Report to the nurse)



Nurse must report each outbreak to the State! Most kids are vaccinated, but some may still get a mild case. Chicken Pox starts as fluid-filled, red blisters, and then turns to scabs. Students must be without any blisters and cleared by the nurse before returning to school.

8) IMPETIGO (Contagious- Report to the nurse)



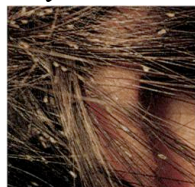
Impetigo is a bacterial infection. Students need antibiotic ointment or oral medication to fight the infection. Sores must be treated and covered while the student is in school. Impetigo is characterized by red bumps, usually around the mouth, with a yellow, oozy, crusty discharge.

9) RINGWORM (Contagious- Report to the nurse)



Ringworm is a fungal infection. It is characterized by red, round, itchy patches on the skin or scalp. Sores must be covered while a student is in school until all of the sores are gone. The infection can be passed from cats, dogs, or other children. It is treated with anti-fungal creams, then with an oral anti-fungal if the sore does not clear up within 1-2 weeks.

10) HEAD LICE (Pediculosis-Contagious- Report to the nurse)



A student with head lice will have an itchy head. He/she will need to be sent home and treated. It can take up to 2 weeks for lice to clear up completely. Students must be seen by the school nurse before school every day until it is cleared up.

Please consult the school nurse if you notice these symptoms. *For further information contact Scales School Nurse Halyna Chirovsky, RN, BSN, NCSN at 480-929-9909 ext 6903.*

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Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) 2008

Exciting! Educational! Enriching!

Our program encourages students to experience a variety of challenging, rewarding and interesting courses and activities

Program Dates: June 2 - June 26, 2008

(Monday - Thursday)

Program Times: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Program Locations: (see below)

Enrichment 4-9 and Special Education

For students going into 4th - 9th grades

Fees Middle School

1600 East Watson Drive, Tempe

K-3 Enrichment and Special Education

K-3 AIMS

For students going
into K-3rd grades

Rover Elementary
School

1300 East Watson
Drive, Tempe

Registration begins: Monday, March 17, 2008 at 1:00 pm

Registration ends: Friday, May 9, 2008 at 4:00 pm

Registration times: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Registration site: Sanchez Administration Building

3205 S. Rural Road, Tempe

SEP Information: 480-730-7306

SEP brochures are available at
all Tempe School District No. 3 school offices
and the SEP Office

located at the Sanchez Administration Building
3205 South Rural Road
Tempe, Arizona 85282

Scales Honor Choir Participants

Sing All the Right Notes!

By Mary Jo Finkle, General Music Teacher

On Friday, February 1, five fifth graders from Scales Intermediate Choir participated in the Tempe District Elementary Honor Choir concert held at McClintock High School. Honor Choir students were chosen to represent our school based on their 1) participation and outstanding attitude in our Scales choir, and because of their 2) exceptional musicianship as singers. Our students rehearsed for three weeks during their lunch and recess times. All 130 members of the choir gathered from other schools to practice on Friday afternoons in January. The extra practice time and effort paid off. Their performance at McClintock was an outstanding event that will be a highlight of their elementary school years. The students representing Scales were (L to R) Anahi Vera, Lynelle Tilden, Rosita Gastelum, Lorenzo Ballenger, and Jimmy Nouan. Congratulations to these fine young musicians!



Editor's note: Special thanks to Ms. Finkle who also served as District Chairperson. We appreciate the work she does to organize the honor choir programs in the District. March is also Music in our Schools Month.

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MUSIC EDUCATION

FUNDRAISERS

by Mary Jo Finkle, General Music Teacher

When we open Scales Technology Academy next year, we are hoping to have a piano lab that will be a major part of infusing technology into our music instruction. In order to make this happen, we need to raise \$22,000 to fund the program.

PENNIES FOR PIANOS :

Each classroom will be given a container for the collection of pennies (or other coins and bills) to contribute to the piano lab fund. We will collect coins until March 31st.

FITNESS WORKS

FUNDRAISER: Buy a 3-month membership to Fitness Works for @20.00!!! Half of that amount will go to the Scales Piano Lab fund! This membership pass includes the use of all club facilities as well as initial sessions with personal trainers and a \$25.00 gift certificate towards spa services such as facial, massages and waxing services. Each family will receive an information packet in Spanish and English. Help us out and give packets to sell to friends, neighbors or co-workers.

Thanks for your support!

New Immunization Requirements for the 2008-2009 School Year

Students entering the 6th grade in the 2008-2009 school year will be required to receive the following immunizations by September 1, 2008.

- (1) *A combined vaccine for pertussis and tetanus (Tdap) and*
- (2) *A vaccine for meningitis (MV). Sixth graders who are not eleven years of age when school starts will be required to receive the immunizations after their eleventh birthday.*

Pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus (lockjaw) vaccines are given to young children in the DTap or DTP vaccine series and to adolescents and adults in the Tdap vaccine. Meningitis is an infection of the fluid in a person's spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Meningitis can spread quickly.

In addition, students eleven years and older, who have had 5 years pass since their last tetanus/diphtheria

vaccine dose, are required to receive the Tdap immunization.

The nurse at your child's school will be sending immunization referrals as a reminder to make an appointment with your child's doctor or nearby clinic for the needed immunizations. If you have questions, please call the Scales Health Office @ 480-929-9909 ext. 6903

Tempe Elementary School District No. 3

Mission Statement-

To assure that all students reach their achievement goals.

Goals-

- Increase **student achievement** in every classroom, for every student, in every subject, everyday.
- Provide **exceptional service** and **support** to all.
- Provide a culture of **innovation** and **risk-taking**.
- Provide **outstanding facilities** and **technology**.